Mr. K. R. Elenkath : May I know whether the respective amounts mentioned here are permanent deposits or whether money may be drawn out of them for purposes connected with the schools?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : Money can be drawn out of them and reimbursed later on.

Mr. K. R. Elenkath : May I know whether there is any variation in the amount of the deposits in the case of schools which have permanent buildings and in the case of schools which have only temporary sheds?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : Sir, that has not been brought to the notice of the Department.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi (*Karunagappalli Kartigappalli and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*) : May I know whether in view of the financial depression alround the Government will be pleased to consider the question of reducing the deposits required?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : No objection has been raised so far in regard to the amount prescribed.

Increasing the productivity of the soil.

88. ***Mr. N. V. Chacko :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the total amount of yield of paddy in Travancore per year at present ;

(*b*) whether the yield cannot be increased by increasing the productivity of the soil ;

(*c*) whether any definite action is taken to increase the productive capacity of the soil to its maximum ; and

(*d*) the approximate period within which the productivity of the soil can be increased to its maximum?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : (*a*) No statistics are available about the quantity of paddy produced in the State from time to time. A rough estimate of the production alone can therefore be made. On an average the paddy lands in Travancore yield 75 *paras* or 15 cwts. of grain per acre and as the area under cultivation was 6,90,226 according to the latest statistics, the yield in the State may be roughly estimated at 10 million cwts.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) This will depend upon the kind of soil, climatic conditions prevailing and the extent to and the speed with which the improved methods are followed.

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Mr. N. V. Chacko: May I know whether any statistics have been called for by the Department?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Yes, as far as possible.

Mr. N. V. Chacko: With reference to part (d) of the answer, if all the conditions that have been prescribed by the Department are satisfied what will be the approximate period within which the productivity of the soil can be increased to its maximum?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: It may be attained even during a season.

Mr. K. R. Elenkath: May I know whether the experiments done by the Department through their experimental farms go to assure Government that if the ryots follow the methods adopted by the Department they can have the cultivation at a profit or at a loss?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: The ryots will certainly derive profit by following the methods adopted by the Government.

Mr. K. R. Elenkath: May I know whether the cultivators have taken advantage of the experiments in the Demonstration farms?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Yes.

Mr. K. R. Elenkath: May I know the extent to which the productive capacity of an acre of land has increased as a result of following the experiments?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: The relevant statistics are not available, Sir.

Conductors appointed in the Transport Department.

89. ***Mr. T. Muhamed Ismail** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of graduate conductors appointed in the State Transport Department;

(*b*) the number of non-graduates so appointed;

(*c*) the number of Muslims who have applied for the post of conductors; and

(*d*) th number of Muslims appointed?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: (*a*) 95.

(*b*) 10.

(*c*) and (*d*) The Transport Department is conducted on a commercial basis without advertence to the rules in respect of recruitments to the public service and the question of appointments according to communities does not therefore arise.

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